

Statement of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Regarding Raised Bill 118 An Act Concerning Environmental Justice

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) is pleased to provide the following comments regarding Raised Bill 118 AAC Environmental Justice (LCO Number 632).

Section 1(4) of the bill states:

(4) "Affecting facilities" means electric generating facilities, sludge or solid waste incinerators or combustors, sewage treatment plants with a capacity of more than fifty gallons per day, intermediate processing centers, volume reduction facilities, multitown recycling facilities, active landfills, asphalt and concrete batching facilities, major sources of air pollution, as defined by the federal Clean Air Act, and sources with air emissions that exceed the federal Toxic Release Inventory reporting threshold pursuant to the federal Emergency Planning, Community Right-to-Know and Pollution Prevention Act, as defined on January 1, 2007.

Similar to other competitive markets, the renewable energy market requires stability and certainty. Over the past several years there have been numerous modifications made to various policies and programs related to the renewable energy market here in Connecticut. These modifications have the affect of creating uncertainty in a market that requires certainty in order to promote further growth and development.

As drafted this bill has the ability to directly "affect", among other sources, "electric generating facilities", which we infer includes renewable electricity generating facilities. As such the CCEF recommends that the definition of "Affecting Facility" be modified to limit uncertainty as it applies to certain renewable electricity generation facilities.

The CCEF requests that language be added to exclude non-emitting and non-polluting renewable generation technologies and minor sources such as fuel cells. While renewable resources such as wind, solar, hydro and fuel cells may fall below the federal Toxic Release Inventory reporting threshold, a clarifying sentence would limit additional uncertainties.

In line 27, after the period, add the following:

"Affecting facilities shall not include renewable electric generating facilities such as wind, solar and hydro resources that are non-emitting and non-polluting technologies and minor-emitting electric generating facilities such as fuel cells."